jewelry - general

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Curios and Relics

Clothing Accessories

Jewelry

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society

January, 1929.

RING GIVEN BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN TO JOSEPH MEDILL NOW OWNED BY THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Through the influence of Mr. Walter Scott Stout, Head of the Canadian-Pacific Express Company, Toronto, Canada, a ring owned by Joseph Medill, former owner of *The Chicago Tribune,* and given him by Abraham Lincoln, has been presented to the Illinois State Historical Library by Mrs. George W. McAvity of St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. Mr. Medill gave the ring to his cousin, Mr. George E. Armstrong (one of Lincoln's Guard of Honor) of New York, uncle of Mrs. McAvity and at Mr. Armstrong's death, the ring was given to his niece Mrs. McAvity, who in turn presents it to the Illinois State Historical Library.*

Joseph Medill and Abraham Lincoln were life-long friends. The Library and Society are most appreciative of Mr. Stout's thoughtfulness in having this ring, with its history, presented to the Library, and it will be a valuable addition to the Lincolniana of the Library. Mr. Stout, who was a former Havana, Illinois, boy, is an old friend of the Librarian, Miss Georgia L. Osborne, and much interested in Lincoln and the history of his native state. While visiting Mr. George W. McAvity this summer, Mr. Stout learned the ring's history and thought it should have a place in the library where it could be seen and appreciated.

(Signed) Georgia L. Osborne,
Librarian, Illinois State Historical Library.
Secretary, Illinois State Historical Society.

* Mrs. McAvity passed away September 8th, 1928.
Mr. McAvity presented the ring to the library in memory of his wife, Dec., 1928.

PRESENTS LINCOLN RING

Museum Gets Ornament Given Joseph Medill by President

A ring presented by Abraham Lincoln to his close friend, Joseph Medill, then editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, has been added to the collection of Lincolniana in the Illinois State Historical Library at Springfield.

The ring was given to the society by George McAvity of St. John's, N. B., who inherited it as a part of the estate of his wife upon her death in September. Mrs. McAvity had received the ring from an uncle, George E. Armstrong, a member of the Lincoln guard of honor, to whom Mr. Medill had presented it.

August 31, 1932

Mr. J. H. Lewis
1202 N. Main St.
Dayton, Ohio

My dear Mr. Lewis:

What evidence do you have to support your statement that the pin was given by Lincoln to Mr. Curtin as that is the only contact that would make the pin of much value.

We do not make any appraisals whatsoever as the enclosed letter will show.

Very sincerely,

_____ Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundatin

LAW/H

L.N.L.

Dayton Ohio
Aug 30/32

Dr. Louis A Warren
Ft. Wayne
Ind.

Dear Sir: I have been referred to you by Dr Harlow Lindley of Columbus about a Lincoln Pin I have. This pin was given out by Mr Lincoln while visiting Gov. Curtin at Bellefonte Pa in 1864. It is Dated 1864 on the Brass rim and "For President" is across the top. The picture of him is good and in good condition (over)

a small pin is across the Back with a hook to hold in on. Please advise as to its value and a possible place to sell it if I desire to.

Thanking you

Yours Truly

J. H. Lewis

1202-N-Main

Dayton

Ohio.

P.S. Several Lincoln collectors have seen the Pin and say it is valuable but to ask you about it before selling.

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(Copy)

Know all men by these presence that I, Francis A. Brewer, being first first being duly sworn, depose and say:

I have exclusive title, legal and equitable, to a pendant brooch d scribed as follows: yellow gold, with black trimmings and set with 25 rose diamonds. Said brooch was once the property of Abraham Linciln who presented it to Kate Chase Sprague, who was the daughter of the late Chief Justice Chase of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the first wife of Governor Sprague of Rhode Island.

After the Roscoe Conklin scandal and the subsequent separation of Gov. and Mrs. Sprague, the latter presented said brooch to her daughter, Portia. In 1898 Nicholas R. Brewer, my father, painted a portrait of Gov. Sprague for the state of Rhode Island, and also met his daughter, Portia, and painted a portrait of her. Mr. Brewer gave the latter portrait to Portia, and, in turn, he was offered and accepted said brooch from Portia.

(Signed) Francis A. Brewer

District of Columbia:ss

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 18th day of January, 1933.

(Signed) A. E. E. Mason
Notary Public

My commission will expire
Dec. 8, 1933.

Dec. 8, 1933

My dear Mr. Warren :

When in Chicago at the Ann Rutlege Tavern I had an interview with Lincoln's "double," Dr. Bull, who was interested in the above described brooch that seems to have such an interesting history. I am very interested to know more of it myself, believing that this must be authentic since the people are of such recent prominence that this man could hardly commit such an indescression regarding his personal contact with his father and get by with it. I carried it to Peacock, the jeweler, who said the description was correct. I took it to the Chicago Historical Soc. but Mr. Shattuck, the Director, was not there on Saturdays. So could not find out anything more definite about this gift from Mr. Lincoln to the very interesting madcap daughter of one of his Cabinet members. Could you give me any further data concerning the circumstances under which it was presented maybe. I wonder if it could have been a wedding gift. I am told by a reliable jeweler that it is about a 16th century piece. So Mr. lincoln didn't have it made but it may have had a yet more interesting background.

Please let me know if you can give me any further information regard- it. Very truly yours, Mrs. H. M. Lowe, Lexington Mass.

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December 13, 1933

Mrs. H. M. Lowe
Lexington, Miss.

My dear Madam:

Thank you very much for calling to our attention the affidavit signed by Francis A. Brewer relative to the presentation of the brooch to Kate Chase Sprague by Abraham Lincoln.

We have never come across this tradition before, and while we know that Mr. Lincoln greatly admired Miss Chase, we have never seen any evidence which would support the claim made in this affidavit.

Your story interests us very much however, and aside from the statement which infers that President Lincoln was present at the wedding of Kate Chase, we have been unable to discover any evidence whatever.

We will keep your query in mind and if we are advised later on as to the history of this brooch, we will be pleased to write you.

Very sincerely yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:EB